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General and complete disarmament: implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Letter dated 19 September 2013 from the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to enclose herewith the framework for elimination of Syrian chemical weapons reached in Geneva on 14 September 2013 between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov, and the United States Secretary of State of the United States of America, John Kerry.

We should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its enclosures as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 99 (v), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Samantha **Power**
Permanent Representative of the United States of America
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 19 September 2013 from the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Framework for elimination of Syrian chemical weapons

Taking into account the decision of the Syrian Arab Republic to accede to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the commitment of the Syrian authorities to provisionally apply the Convention prior to its entry into force, the United States and the Russian Federation express their joint determination to ensure the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons programme in the quickest and safest manner.

For this purpose, the United States and the Russian Federation have committed to preparing and submitting in the next few days to the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) a draft decision setting down special procedures for expeditious destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons programme and stringent verification thereof. The principles on which this decision should be based, in the view of both sides, are set forth in annex A. The United States and the Russian Federation believe that these extraordinary procedures are necessitated by the prior use of these weapons in Syria and the volatility of the Syrian civil war.

The United States and the Russian Federation commit to work together towards prompt adoption of a Security Council resolution that reinforces the decision of the OPCW Executive Council. This resolution will also contain steps to ensure its verification and effective implementation and will request that the Secretary-General, in consultation with OPCW, submit recommendations to the Security Council on an expedited basis regarding the role of the United Nations in eliminating the Syrian chemical weapons programme.

The United States and the Russian Federation concur that the Security Council resolution should provide for review, on a regular basis, of the implementation in Syria of the decision of the Executive Council of OPCW, and in the event of non-compliance, including unauthorized transfer, or any use of chemical weapons by anyone in Syria, the Security Council should impose measures under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

The proposed joint United States-Russian OPCW draft decision supports the application of article VIII of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which provides for the referral of any cases of non-compliance to the General Assembly and the Security Council.

In furtherance of the objective to eliminate the Syrian chemical weapons programme, the United States and the Russian Federation have reached a shared assessment of the amount and type of chemical weapons involved, and are committed to the immediate international control over chemical weapons and their components in Syria. The United States and the Russian Federation expect Syria to submit, within a week, a comprehensive listing, including names, types and quantities of its chemical weapons agents, types of munitions and location and form of storage, production, and research and development facilities.

We further determined that the most effective control of these weapons may be achieved by removal of the largest amounts of weapons feasible, under OPCW supervision, and their destruction outside of Syria, if possible. We set ambitious goals for the removal and destruction of all categories of chemical-weapons-related materials and equipment, with the objective of completing such removal and destruction in the first half of 2014. In addition to chemical weapons, stocks of chemical weapons agents, their precursors, specialized chemical weapons equipment and chemical weapons munitions themselves, the elimination process must include the facilities for the development and production of these weapons. The views of both sides in this regard are set forth in annex B.

The United States and the Russian Federation have further decided that to achieve accountability for their chemical weapons, the Syrians must provide OPCW, the United Nations and other supporting personnel with the immediate and unfettered right to inspect any and all sites in Syria. The extraordinary procedures to be proposed by the United States and the Russian Federation for adoption by the OPCW Executive Council and reinforced by a Security Council resolution, as described above, should include a mechanism to ensure this right.

Under this framework, personnel under both the OPCW mandate and the United Nations mandate should be dispatched as rapidly as possible to support control, removal and destruction of Syria's chemical weapons capabilities.

The United States and the Russian Federation believe that the work of OPCW and the United Nations will benefit from the participation of experts of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The United States and the Russian Federation strongly reiterate their position on Syria as reflected in the final communiqué of the Group of Eight summit in Northern Ireland in June 2013, especially as regards chemical weapons

The two sides intend to work closely together and with OPCW, the United Nations, all Syrian parties and other interested Member States with relevant capabilities to arrange for the security of the monitoring and destruction mission, recognizing the primary responsibility of the Syrian Government in this regard.

The United States and the Russian Federation note that there are details in furtherance of the execution of this framework that need to be addressed on an expedited basis in the coming days and commit to completing these details, as soon as practicable, understanding that time is of the essence, given the crisis in Syria.

Annex A
Principles for a decision document of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

1. The decision should be based on article IV, paragraph 8, and article V, paragraph 10, of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

2. The decision should address the extraordinary character of the situation of the Syrian chemical weapons.

3. The decision should take into account the deposit by Syria of the instrument of accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

4. The decision should provide for easy accessibility by States parties to the information submitted by Syria.

5. The decision should specify which initial information Syria shall submit to the OPCW Technical Secretariat in accordance with a tightly fixed schedule and also specify an early date for submission of the formal Chemical Weapons Convention declaration.

6. The decision should oblige Syria to cooperate fully on all aspects of its implementation.

7. The decision should address a schedule for the rapid destruction of Syrian chemical weapons capabilities. This schedule should take into account the following target dates:

(a) Completion of initial OPCW on-site inspections of declared sites by November.

(b) Destruction of production and mixing/filling equipment by November.

(c) Complete elimination of all chemical weapons material and equipment in the first half of 2014.

The shortest possible final deadline, as well as intermediate deadlines, for the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons capabilities should be included in the schedule.

8. The decision should provide stringent special verification measures, beginning within a few days, including a mechanism to ensure the immediate and unfettered right to inspect any and all sites.

9. The decision should address the issue of duties of the OPCW Technical Secretariat in this situation and its need for supplementary resources to implement the decision, particularly technical and personnel resources, and call upon States with relevant capacities to contribute to this end.

10. The decision should refer to the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention obliging the Executive Council, in cases of non-compliance with the Convention, to bring the issues directly to the attention of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Annex B
Joint framework on destruction of Syrian chemical weapons

The Russian Federation and the United States of America agree on the need to achieve rapid elimination of Syria's chemical weapons, thus reducing the threat posed to the people of Syria. They are each prepared to devote high-level attention and resources to support the monitoring and destruction mission of OPCW, both directly and in cooperation with the United Nations and other States concerned. They agree to set an ambitious goal of eliminating the threat in a rapid and effective manner.

Both parties agree that a clear picture of the state of Syrian chemical weapons could help advance a cooperative development of destruction options, including possible removal of chemical weapons outside of the Syrian territory. We agree on the importance of rapid destruction of the following categories:

(a) Production equipment;

(b) Mixing and filling equipment;

(c) Filled and unfilled weapons and delivery systems;

(d) Chemical agents (unweaponized) and precursor chemicals. For these materials, they will pursue a hybrid approach, that is, a combination of removal from Syria and destruction within Syria, depending upon site-specific conditions. They will also consider the possibility of consolidation and destruction in the coastal area of Syria;

(e) Material and equipment related to the research and development of chemical weapons.

The two parties agree to utilize the "universal matrix", developed in the course of consultations by their two national security councils, as the basis for an actionable plan.

They agree that the elimination of chemical weapons in Syria should be considered an urgent matter to be implemented within the shortest possible time period.

The parties agree to set the following target dates:

(a) Completion of initial OPCW on-site inspections by November;

(b) Destruction of production and mixing/filling equipment by November;

(c) Complete elimination of all chemical weapons material and equipment in the first half of 2014.

The Russian Federation and the United States will work together closely, including with OPCW, the United Nations and Syrian parties, to arrange for the security of the monitoring and destruction mission, noting the primary responsibility of the Syrian Government in this regard.

United Nations S/2013/566

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 September 2013

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Letter dated 20 September 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 6 September 2013 from Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union (see annex), forwarding the conclusions reached at a meeting of the Commissioner and the Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States, which was held in Addis Ababa on 2 and 3 September 2013. The letter also transmits the press statement issued after the meeting (see enclosure 2).

I would be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annexes to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex to the letter dated 20 September 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 6 September 2013 from the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Chair of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, I am writing to you as a follow-up to my earlier letter dated 26 July 2013 (S/2013/476, annex) on the situation in the Central African Republic and related AU efforts, notably the envisaged deployment of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (AFISM-CAR), as endorsed by the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) on 19 July 2013. Subsequent to the AU PSC communiqué of 19 July 2013, the Commission has taken a number of steps to expedite the operationalization of AFISM-CAR. We intend to shortly revert to you in this respect, to facilitate the mobilization of the required resources for the Mission.

I am pleased to inform you that intensive and fruitful consultations have taken place between the African Union and the General Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on the transition from the ECCAS Peace Consolidation Mission in the Central African Republic to AFISM-CAR. I am forwarding, herewith, copies of the conclusions reached by the two organizations, as well as of the press release issued on that occasion. I would be most grateful if you could circulate those documents to the members of the Security Council, for their information and action as may be appropriate.

Given the seriousness of the situation in the Central African Republic and the need for sustained international engagement in support of the ongoing transition, it is critical that the African Union and the United Nations continue to work closely together. At the African Union, we have no doubt that the United Nations and you personally will spare no efforts in support of the AU and ECCAS initiatives.

(*Signed*) Ramtane **Lamamra**
Commissioner for Peace and Security

Enclosure 1

Conclusions of the meeting between the Commission of the African Union and the General Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States, held in Addis Ababa on 2 and 3 September 2013

[Original: English/French]

At their consultative meeting held in Addis Ababa on 2 and 3 September 2013, the Commission of the African Union (AU) and the General Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) agreed to undertake the following tasks within the framework of the transition from the ECCAS Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic (MICOPAX) to the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (AFISM-CAR).

I. Strategic coordination

1. Deployment by ECCAS, at the expense of the African Union, of two experts at the AU Commission, in Addis Ababa, to facilitate the follow-up of all the aspects of the transition from MICOPAX to AFISM-CAR.

2. Deployment by the African Union of one officer in Libreville, to facilitate the follow-up of all aspects of the transition from MICOPAX to AFISM-CAR.

II. Generation of forces

3. Communication by ECCAS to the African Union of all the arrangements made for the generation of 2,000 personnel, as provided for in the Concept of Operation of MICOPAX II.

4. Dispatch of a note verbale by the AU Commission to Burundi, to follow up on the pledge made by that country to ECCAS to contribute troops.

5. Identification by the AU Commission, in consultation with the General Secretariat of ECCAS, and based on the conclusions of the Technical Assessment Mission that is currently in Bangui, of potential troop- and police-contributing countries.

6. Joint AU-ECCAS predeployment visits to potential troop- and police-contributing countries.

III. Establishment of the AFISM-CAR Mission Headquarters (civilian, police and military components)

7. Appointment of the Special Representative and Head of AFISM-CAR by the Chair of the AU Commission, after consultation with the Chair of ECCAS.

8. Appointment by the AU Commission, upon designation by ECCAS, of the Deputy Special Representative, the Force Commander and Chief of the Police

component, as well as their deputies. It is recommended that the current chiefs of the components be maintained in their functions until the end of December 2013.

9. Communication by the African Union to ECCAS of a proposal for the distribution of posts in the Mission Headquarters.

10. Launching by the African Union, in consultation with ECCAS, of the process of recruitment of staff for the Mission Headquarters.

IV. Legal framework of AFISM-CAR

11. Communication by the African Union to ECCAS, for input of the draft agreement on the status of AFISM-CAR and the memorandums of understanding between the African Union and the troop- and police-contributing countries.

12. Finalization of the memorandum of understanding between the AU Commission and the General Secretariat of ECCAS.

V. Schedule for the transition from MICOPAX to AFISM-CAR

13. Organization, at the appropriate time, of the ceremony for the transfer of authority from MICOPAX to AFISM-CAR.

VI. Continuation of the planning process

14. Convening of a meeting of experts in Addis Ababa from 7 to 10 October 2013 to finalize the operational implementation plan of AFISM-CAR in the light of the guidelines contained in the strategic concept approved by the meeting of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) held on 19 July 2013.

VII. Resource mobilization and logistical support

15. Communication by the AU Commission to the AU partners of the AFISM-CAR logistical needs, as reflected in the conclusions of the Technical Assessment Mission to the Central African Republic, on the understanding that additional information could be provided in the light of the above-mentioned operation planning meeting.

VIII. Other aspects

16. Consultations between the AU Commission and the General Secretariat of ECCAS ahead of the meetings of the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic (ICG-CAR) and joint efforts to follow up on the conclusions of those meetings.

17. Joint efforts to establish the Trust Fund to support the Central African Republic and to mobilize resources in accordance with the conclusions of the meetings of the ICG-CAR.

IX. Monitoring and schedule

18. The AU Commission and the General Secretariat of ECCAS will hold continuous consultations and will coordinate closely their efforts to ensure the follow-up of those conclusions. In this regard, the two organizations will draw up a schedule for the implementation of those activities. Particular attention will be given to the speedy finalization of the memorandum of understanding between the AU Commission and the General Secretariat of ECCAS.

(*Signed*) Ramtane **Lamamra**
Commissioner for Peace and Security
of the African Union

(*Signed*) Ahmad **Allam-Mi**
Secretary-General of the Economic
Community of Central African States

Enclosure 2

Joint press release

[Original: English/French]

Consultations between the Commission of the African Union and the General Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States

Addis Ababa, 3 September 2013: The Commission of the African Union (AU) and the General Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) held consultations in Addis Ababa on 2 and 3 September 2013 on the transition process from the ECCAS Peace Consolidation Mission in the Central African Republic (MICOPAX) to the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (AFISM-CAR). The AU delegation was led by Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security, and the ECCAS delegation by its Secretary-General, Ahmad Allam-Mi.

Those consultations were part of the follow-up to the decision of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) of 19 July 2013 on the deployment of AFISM-CAR and the meeting between experts from both organizations held in Libreville on 21 and 22 August 2013. The two delegations discussed the modalities and timelines of the transition from MICOPAX to AFISM-CAR, whose core elements will be constituted by the MICOPAX contingents, in accordance with the PSC communiqué of 19 July 2013. The AU Commission and the ECCAS General Secretariat will endeavour to complete the following tasks: the establishment of the AFISM-CAR Mission headquarters and its various components; the generation of additional forces, it being understood that the States members of ECCAS shall expedite the build-up of existing capabilities to reach the 2,000 uniformed personnel as agreed to by the extraordinary summit of the ECCAS Heads of State and Government held in N'Djaména on 18 April 2013, to constitute the core elements of AFISM-CAR; the operational planning for the deployment of AFISM-CAR; as well as the legal framework for the deployment of AFISM-CAR, including the memorandum of understanding between the African Union and ECCAS. The discussions also covered issues relating to the follow-up of the conclusions of the meetings of the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic (ICG-CAR), held in Brazzaville and Addis Ababa, on 3 May and 8 July 2013, respectively, particularly with respect to the mobilization of resources commensurate with the needs of the Central African Republic.

The AU Commission and the ECCAS Secretariat reiterate their concern about the situation in the Central African Republic and the need for international support to facilitate the completion of the transition in that country. The two organizations appeal to the United Nations Security Council to authorize financial and logistical support for AFISM-CAR, as well as to the other international partners to fully support their joint efforts.

On 3 September 2013, the Secretary-General of ECCAS was received by the Chair of the AU Commission, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma. The meeting provided an opportunity for an exchange of views on the situation in the Central African

Republic and on other peace and security challenges in the Central African region. It also provided the opportunity for an exchange on issues relating to economic integration and the economic partnership agreements, as well as to underscore the key role of the regional economic communities, such as ECCAS. The Chair of the Commission took the opportunity to congratulate the new Secretary-General of ECCAS for the confidence bestowed upon him by the leaders of the region, and assured him of her support and that of the Commission as a whole in the pursuit of the common objectives of the two organizations. She reiterated the deep appreciation of the African Union to regional leaders for their continued commitment to peace, security and stability in the Central African Republic, in particular, and in the continent, in general.